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Cory N. Strupp

April 4, 2005

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the Bankers' Association for Finance and Trade, I strongly urge you to support passage of the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA), which will strengthen America's trading relationships with Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic.

Through the reduction and elimination of tariffs and other restrictions on market access, free trade agreements like DR-CAFTA help American businesses more effectively compete in foreign markets. They also make our markets more accessible to foreign producers, which benefits American consumers. Moreover, free trade between our country and other nations promotes the American ideals of capitalism, democracy, and freedom.

The implementation of NAFTA helped to fuel America's longest post-war economic expansion. In the first 10 years after NAFTA was passed, the U.S. economy experienced 38% growth, with exports to Canada and Mexico increasing from \$134.3 billion to \$250.6 billion. Our NAFTA partners benefited as well, with the total volume of trilateral trade expanding from \$289.3 billion in 1993 to \$623.1 billion in 2003 – almost \$1.7 billion in trilateral trade conducted daily. We believe that DR-CAFTA similarly will make a lasting and positive contribution to our economic future, as well as to the economic prosperity of the other countries that are parties to this agreement.

We expect that DR-CAFTA will come before Congress in the near future and that you will cast your vote in favor of its approval.

Sincerely,

Cory N. Strupp